TOGETHER WITH TOSHA

Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development *Division of Occupational Safety and Health* *Summer 2001*

New Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA

President Bush has nominated John Lester Henshaw to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health. He is presently the Director of Environment, Safety and Health for Astaris, LLC, in St. Louis, Missouri, and was previously the Director of Environment, Safety and Health for Solutia, Inc. From 1975 to 1995, he was with Monsanto Company in a variety of positions, including Corporate Director of Quality and Compliance Assurance and Corporate Stewardship for Environmental Safety and Health and as Corporate Industrial Hygiene Director. Henshaw served for 16 years in the Air National Guard as a Bio-Environmental Engineer, and he is a member of numerous professional organizations. He is a graduate of Appalachian State University and received a master's degree from the University of Michigan.

Don't "Fall" for This

Falls continue to be the leading cause of death in accidents investigated by TOSHA. The safety and health professionals at TOSHA investigated 15 fatalities involving falls in 2000. Since January 1, 2001, 10 Tennessee workers have been killed in falls. Most of these occurred in the construction industry; however, there are many overlooked but commonly occurring activities where fall hazards may be present in general industry. These include the following:

- repair to air units on the roof
- roof maintenance
- working from lift truck platforms
- working from catwalks
- walking on elevated conveyors
- working from fixed and portable ladders
- climbing on equipment for inspection or repair

Take the time to evaluate YOUR workplace and identify any of these activities where fall hazards may be present. They can be controlled using guardrails, covers, personal fall arrest equipment, and employee training. For more information, call TOSHA at 800-249-8510. TOSHA is committed to helping employers identify fall hazards and select the necessary protection to control or eliminate the hazard. Don't fall for having a workplace with obvious but uncontrolled fall hazards.

Evaluating Sharps Injury Protection Devices

Here's how to use the International Health Care Worker Safety Center Web site to Help Evaluate Available Sharps Injury Protection Devices:

- Log on to www. osha. gov
- Click on "N" in the INDEX at the top of the page
- Click on "Needlestick Injuries"
- Scroll down the Needlestick Prevention page and left click on "Safety Devices" in the Engineering Controls section
- Click on the box in the middle of the page that says "http://www.people.virginia.edu/~epinet/produc"
- Click on the type of safety device from the list
- Decide on which company you want to use from those listed
- Scroll down to the company's name in the alphabetical listing at the bottom of the page under "Company Directory"
- Click on the highlighted name of the company to link directly to the company's Web site . . . the companies are in alphabetical order

We're from the Government and We're Here to Help You

eCATs are OSHA's Electronic Compliance Assistance Tools. eCATs are illustrated, expert-based tools designed to assist business in identifying workplace hazards and control methods. They are provided free and can be downloaded and run on local personal computers. eCATs combine the expertise of OSHA safety and health professionals, including epidemiologists, risk assessors, and attorneys into a single source of expert help. These are located on OSHA's Web site, www.osha.gov. On the home page, scroll down until you see eCATs under the "Outreach" section, click on "OSHA eCATs and Expert Systems," and then find the one you are interested in using and click on that. This is an ongoing project. Here is a list of those developed so far:

Baggage Handling	Nursing Home
Beverage Delivery	Poultry Processing
Computer Workstations	Respiratory
Construction	Safety and Health Mgt.
Grocery Warehousing	Scaffolding
Lockout/Tagout	Sewing
Logging	Silica

We bet you will find these easy and fun to use.

Together With TOSHA
Michael E. Magill
Commissioner

John Winkler
TOSHA Administrator

Andrew Johnson Tower, 3rd Floor
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243-0659

615/741-2793 FAX 615/741-3325
Accident Reporting 1/800-249-8510
TDD 1/800-475-1351

www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd

Editor Sandra Bennett
Layout & Design Janis Harkins

Comments and suggestions are welcome. Inquiries regarding *Together With TOSHA* should be directed to the TOSHA Division Training Section: 615/741-5726

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Ergonomics Meetings to Be Held

A series of three public forums to discuss possible approaches to addressing ergonomic hazards in the workplace will be held. Public participation and written comments are solicited. The public meetings will be held in Washington, D. C., on July 16; in Illinois on July 20; and in California on July 24. Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao has set forth several principles that the Department of Labor will use to guide its development of a new framework with regard to the ergonomics issue. They are: **prevention, sound science, incentive driven, flexibility, feasibility, and clarity**. The answers to three questions are sought:

- What is an ergonomics injury —seeking an accepted definition
- How can OSHA, employers, and employees determine whether an ergonomic injury was caused by work-related activities or nonwork-related activities, or a combination?
- What are the most useful and cost effective types of government involvement to address workplace ergonomic injuries —rulemaking, guidelines, publications/conferences, technical assistance, consultations, partnerships, or combinations?

Ask TOSHA

What is TOSHA's policy on engineering controls for noise?

Current enforcement policy regarding control of noise exposures allows employers to rely on personal protective equipment and an effective hearing conservation program rather than engineering controls when hearing protectors will effectively attenuate the noise to which the employee is exposed. A hearing conservation program is deemed effective if all elements are in place and there are no standard threshold shifts.

For daily noise exposures that average between 90 and 100 decibels (averaged over eight hours), employers must abate those overexposures by engineering controls that lower the exposures to below 85 decibels (averaged over eight hours); however, if an employer can show that inclusion of the overexposed employees in an effective hearing conservation program is less costly, he/she may choose that option instead of implementing engineering controls.

The estimated costs for engineering controls must be reasonable and include the cost of installing controls and, if available, the actual cost of their maintenance and costs due to any resulting loss of productivity or efficiency. Compare the estimated cost for engineering controls to the estimated annual cost of a hearing conservation program multiplied by the approximate number of years the controls will be effective. If the hearing conservation program will be less costly, the employer may choose that option.

For daily noise exposures that average above 100 decibels (averaged over eight hours), employers must lower those exposures by engineering controls to below 100 decibels (averaged over eight hours). Employees still exposed above 85 decibels (averaged over eight hours) must be included in an effective hearing conservation program. An evaluation of the cost of further engineering controls versus maintaining the hearing conservation program must then be made.

OSHA Trainer Courses to be Held in Nashville

The OSHA Outreach Training Program is a voluntary training program through which OSHA authorizes trainers to teach construction and general industry occupational safety and health standards. Rights and responsibilities under the OSH Act, the appeals process, recordkeeping, and voluntary protection programs are covered. The course also includes an introduction to OSHA's general industry standards and an overview of the requirements of the more frequently referenced standards. Both courses, Construction (OTI 500) and General Industry (OTI 501), will be held in Nashville August 13-17, 2001. These courses are presented by Georgia Tech University, which is an OSHA Training Institute Education Center, and are co-sponsored by the University of Tennessee. Persons completing one of the courses and passing a multiple choice test will be authorized to teach the OSHA 10-hr and 30-hr courses. Authorized trainers are eligible to issue OSHA course completion cards to their students. To register for one of the trainer courses, visit the University of Tennessee Center for Industrial Services Web site at www.cis.utk.edu, or phone Georgia Tech at 404-385-3501.

Hepatitis C

Hepatitis C is a disease of the liver caused by the hepatitis C virus. Transmission occurs when blood or body fluids from an infected person enter the body of a person who is not infected. HCV is spread through sharing needles or "works" when "shooting" drugs, through needlesticks or sharps exposures on the job, or from an infected mother to her baby during birth. Persons at risk for HCV infection might also be at risk for infection with hepatitis B virus (HBV) or HIV.

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection is the most common chronic bloodborne infection in the United States. An estimated 3.9 million (1.8%) Americans have been infected with HCV. Most of these persons (75-85%) are chronically infected and might not be aware of their infection because they are not clinically ill. Infected persons serve as a source of transmission to others and are at risk for chronic liver disease or other HCV-related chronic diseases during the first two or more decades following initial infection.

Population-based studies indicate that 40% of chronic liver disease is HCV-related, resulting in an estimated 8,000–10,000 deaths each year. Current estimates of medical and work-loss costs of HCV-related acute and chronic liver disease are greater than $600 million annually, and HCV-associated end-stage liver disease is the most frequent indication for liver transplantation among adults. Because most HCV-infected persons are aged 30–49 years, the number of deaths attributable to HCV-related chronic liver disease could increase substantially during the next 10–20 years as this group of infected persons reaches ages at which complications from chronic liver disease typically occur.

There is no vaccine, so prevention is the key. To prevent becoming infected:

- Do not inject drugs
- Do not share personal care items that might have blood on them
- If you are a health care or public safety worker, always follow routine barrier precautions, use safer needle devices, and handle all sharps carefully
- If you are having sex with more than one steady uninfected partner, use condoms correctly
- If you are HCV positive, do not donate blood, organs, or tissue
- Consider the risk if you are getting a tattoo or body piercing (although the CDC states that no data exist in the United States indicating that persons with exposures to tattooing alone are at increased risk for HCV infection)

HCV is NOT spread by sneezing, hugging, coughing, breast feeding, food or water, sharing eating utensils or drinking glasses, or casual contact. Other forms of viral hepatitis are hepatitis A, B, D, and E. While hepatitis B and C are spread through blood and body fluids, hepatitis A and E are spread through the fecal/oral route resulting from poor hygiene practices. Hepatitis D co-infects with hepatitis B and needs hepatitis B to exist.

TOSHA Tips

Condition: No infirmary, clinic, or hospital for treatment of injured employees was near the workplace (3-4 minutes travel time) nor was a person adequately trained to render first aid.

Potential Effects: Aggravation of injuries, from lack of immediate medical assistance.

Citation: 1910.151(b) First Aid Training

Recommended Action: At least one person for each shift should be trained in basic first aid and CPR. This training is available through the local Red Cross and similar agencies.

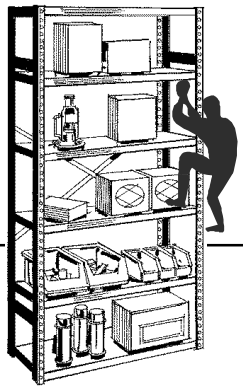
Establish procedures for handling emergency medical situations. Organized procedures reduce the likelihood of panic and result in faster and more efficient emergency care. These procedures should address items such as who is responsible for

1. Notifying professional medical staff
2. Contacting certified ambulance service or transporting the injured employee
3. Accompanying the injured employee to the hospital
4. Providing the employee's medical history maintained at the plant to paramedics or medical staff
5. Contacting the injured's family
6. Gathering an initial injury report from medical staff and others

The Best Things Anyone Ever Said About Work

1. Hard work never killed anybody, but why take a chance? —Charlie McCarthy
2. If you have a job without aggravation, you don't have a job. —Malcolm Forbes
3. People who work sitting down get paid more than people who work standing up. —Ogden Nash
4. The trouble with the rat race is that even if you win you're still a rat. —Lily Tomlin
5. A billion here, a billion there — pretty soon it adds up to real money. —Senator Everett Dirksen
6. I have enough money to last me the rest of my life, unless I buy something. —Jackie Mason
7. Whoever said money can't buy happiness didn't know where to shop. —Unknown
8. I am not afraid of work. I can lie down beside it and go to sleep. —Unknown
9. I like work; it fascinates me. I can sit and look at it for hours. — Jerome K. Jerome
10. The trouble with unemployment is that the minute you wake up in the morning, you're on the job. — Slappy White
11. The human race is faced with a cruel choice: work or daytime television. — Unknown

From: 1,991 Best Things Anybody Ever Said, selected and compiled by Robert Byrne, published by Fawcett Columbine, New York.



Learn and Live

An employee working as a laborer in a warehouse facility was fatally injured when he fell approximately ten feet to a concrete floor. The employee climbed a metal storage rack to retrieve a large item. The employee fell when the wooden shelf support he was standing on shifted. The rack was not equipped with guardrails, nor was access to the upper levels provided without the use of separate equipment. Employees were permitted to climb the racks as needed to retrieve materials.

To prevent this accident from happening:

1. Provide means for reaching upper levels of the racks such as steps, ladders, order pickers, forklifts, etc.
2. Provide adequate personal fall arrest equipment such as guardrails, safety harness and lanyard, etc., for potential fall hazards of six feet or more
3. Provide employee training on fall hazards and safe work practices

To prevent related types of accidents (such as falling object hazards) from happening:

1. Secure the storage racks and shelves in place
2. Post the load capacities of storage racks and/or shelves, and do not exceed those capacities
3. Provide regular inspections of racks for damage or fatigue

"Together with TOSHA"
TN Dept. of Labor & Workforce Development
710 James Robertson Parkway
Andrew Johnson Tower, 3rd Floor
Nashville, TN 37243-0659